

Chase County Commissioners
December 23, 2025

The regular meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Jacci Brown on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, in the meeting room of the Chase County Courthouse. Also present were Commissioner Kurt Bernhardt, County Clerk Wendy Moe, Sheriff Kevin Mueller, Assistant Highway Superintendent Dick DeWester, and Assessor Tori Mueller. Commissioner Billie Muehlenkamp was absent. The agenda and open meetings act were posted. The meeting had been advertised in the Imperial Republican and on the county website.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve claims as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – absent; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

PE=payroll exp, TE=travel exp, SU=supply,
SE=service, CC=court cost, RP=repairs,
PT=parts, L=labor, UT=utility, AP=Appt. Counsel,
PS=Prior Service EQ=Equipment JD=Juv Div

AARON PATRIC GREENE	SE	63.18
AFLAC	PE	928.38
AIRGAS USA, LLC	SU	1451.67
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	10739.08
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	98.1
APPLIED CONNECTIVE	SE	1288.44
ASHLEY K. SPAHN	AP	3648.68
BILLY WHITE	SE	150
BLACK HILLS	UT	1338.46
BCBS OF NE	PE	33179.71
BOMGAARS SUPPLY INC.	SU	293.84
BOUNDTREE MEDICAL LLC	SU	457.26
BRIAN E. FOSTER	SE	30
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	229.15
CCCH	SE	228
CHRISTOPHER MULDER	SE	602.24
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	430.77
DAN'S R US SANITATION	UT	291.13
DEBRA HAYES	SE	182.72
DESIREE LOEFFLER	SE	50.66
DOUBLENINE CAPITAL, LLC	EQ	355.1
E D ENTERPRISES INC	PT	712.02
EFTPS	PE	18983.28
ELIZABETH ARELLANO	SE	106
FAY D. HIYKEL	SE	112.68
FVFC	SU	1430.95
GARY K. HUNT	SE	259
GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	2359.61
HIGH PLAINS NEWS NORTH LLC	SE	949.56
IDEAL LINEN SUPPLY, INC	SE	177.46
J13 ENTERPRISES LLC	SE	4427.71
JASON M ARELLANO	SE	53
JAYDEN C. MARIS	SE	119.84
JERRY L ROWLEY	SE	78.61
JOHN W. MILLER	SE	56.66
JOLENE D. MUTHS	SE	197.6
JOSHUA JOEL BURKE	SE	33.58

LANA J SKELTON	SE	60
LEANNE L. KLEIN	SE	137.6
Legal & Liability Risk Management	SE	200
MARCI KELLEY	SE	517.88
Margaret Marvin Estate	RE	1720
MCI	UT	86.94
MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, INC.	SU	72
MELISA K. KLENTZ	SE	106
MIPS	SE	301.26
NE CHILD SUPPORT PMT CTR	PE	320
NORMA J. HICKMAN	SE	300
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	1141.4
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	SE	2340.01
RAQUEL CASTILLO ARVIZO	SE	110.24
ROBERT S HARVOY	AP	556.25
RONAL A JOHNSON LIVING TRUST	LE	1000
ROXANE K. MILLER	SE	115.38
SWPPD	UT	167.4
STATE OF NE/STATE INCOME TAX	PE	2888.8
STATE OF NEBRASKA/DAS		
COMMUNICATION	SE	1302
STATEWIDE COLLECTION, LLC	PE	422.79
Substrata LLC	SU	15299
TIMMIE D. GREENE	SE	110.24
TYLER KLEIN	SE	53
U S BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	SU	174.37
WILLIAM BITTNER	SE	166
Net Payroll		67491.08
Total All Claims		183253.77

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025, meeting as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – absent; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Leanne Klein joined the meeting during open forum on behalf of Wauneta EMS to present their quarterly report. After the report Leanne asked about the County Board's position on the Hospital helping with transfers. The Board said they thought it would be best for Leanne and Deb, as EMS Captains, to meet with the Hospital Board and discuss the matter directly with them.

Weed Superintendent Brandon Beard joined the meeting during open forum to present the annual noxious weed report. The Board accepted the report as presented.

Agenda item of the County's 2026 Holiday schedule was discussed. Brandon noted that the Road employees would rather have an additional day off instead of a paid Friday for summer holidays when they are off on Friday anyway.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule as follows: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day (observed on Friday, July 3), Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Road Shop employees will receive New Year's Eve in exchange for the Fourth of July holiday. Motion seconded by

Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – absent; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Rebecca Bernard and County Attorney Joel Burke joined the meeting for discussion of the 2027-2030 salaries for elected officials. After much discussion it was decided that elected officials other than Commissioners will get a 5% salary increase in 2027, and 3% annually in 2028, 2029 and 2030. Sheriff compensation will be 125% of Assessor, Clerk, Treasurer and Attorney salaries. Attorney salary is based on a three-day work week. Commissioners, due to limitations set by legislation, will have a 7% salary increase from their 2025 salaries, which will be in place for two years, 2027-2028. Commissioner Brown moved to accept those changes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – absent; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. A resolution will be drawn up for review and approval at the January 13, 2026, meeting.

County Attorney Joel Burke discussed the proposed Prairie Dog Nuisance Plan resolution with the Board. Discussion included whether or not an advisory board was necessary, how will the policy be enforced, and what will the fines be? Joel will continue to work on this and be back to meet with the Board at a later date.

Commissioner Brown moved to reappoint the following Fair Board members for a three-year term: Austin Bernhardt, District 1; Jakob Burke, District 2; Clay Owens, District 3. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – absent; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve a 3% wage increase for Assistant Highway Superintendent Dick DeWester. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – absent; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Jordan Beard was present for the agenda item of Hoff's Hunting Lodge; due to a new building being constructed without a permit, it has been determined that if permit is not obtained within ten days, fines will be imposed upon the site owner, as they have been for previous offenders. County Attorney Burke notified the property owner of the ten-day opportunity to obtain a permit before fines will be imposed.

Becky Bernard joined the meeting for open forum to discuss cleaning of the building over the Christmas Holiday and to get Board approval to do abbreviated cleaning on Christmas Eve, with full cleaning services to resume on December 26. Board indicated that they were fine with that.

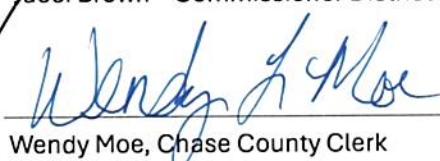
With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:40am.

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1


Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3


Jacqui Brown – Commissioner District #2


Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk

